

# Is the Teaching of "Name It and Claim It" Biblical?

Sixbert SANGWA • June 30, 2024

The "*name it and claim it*" or "*prosperity gospel*" teaching is a controversial and unbiblical doctrine that has gained popularity in certain Christian circles. This doctrine essentially claims that through the power of positive thinking and strong faith, believers can obtain whatever they desire, whether it be health, wealth, or material possessions. However, a careful examination of Scripture reveals that this teaching is in direct contradiction to the true gospel message.

At its core, the "*name it and claim it*" doctrine elevates man's ability to control his own destiny through the "power of faith" rather than submitting to the sovereignty of God. This teaching suggests that believers can essentially manipulate God into granting their requests, rather than humbly trusting in His perfect plan and timing. The Bible, however, clearly teaches that God is the sovereign Lord who works all things according to the counsel of His will ([Ephesians 1:11](#)).

Furthermore, the "*name it and claim it*" doctrine directly contradicts Jesus' own teachings regarding the cost of discipleship. Jesus said, "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it*" ([Matthew 16:24-25](#)). The prosperity gospel, on the other hand, promotes self-satisfaction and the pursuit of worldly treasures, which Jesus explicitly warns against ([Matthew 6:19-21](#)).

Additionally, the "*name it and claim it*" teaching fails to recognize that suffering and persecution are often a normal part of the Christian life. The apostle Paul wrote, "*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*" ([2 Timothy 3:12](#)). Yet the prosperity gospel teaches that any form of suffering is simply the result of a lack of faith.

In contrast, the true gospel message is one of self-denial, sacrifice, and eternal hope in Christ. As the apostle Paul wrote, "*I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need*" ([Philippians 4:11-12](#)).

The prosperity gospel's emphasis on personal prosperity and material gain stands in stark contrast to the biblical call to fix our eyes on the eternal treasures of heaven, not the fleeting pleasures of this world. As followers of Christ, we are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting that He will provide for our needs according to His perfect plan ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

In conclusion, the "*name it and claim it*" doctrine is not only unbiblical but also antithetical to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. The true gospel calls believers to a life of faith, sacrifice, and submission to God's sovereign will, not the pursuit of personal prosperity and material gain. As followers of Christ, we are to fix our eyes on the eternal treasures of heaven, not the fleeting pleasures of this world.

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